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SUBJECT: Demarche Delivered on USG Goals at COP-15

REF: PORT OF SPAIN 482
EMAILS FROM WHA/EPSC FCOLON 12/01/2009, 11/27/2009, 11/24/2009

¶1. (SBU) Charge Len Kusnitz delivered talking points suggested by the Special Envoy for Climate Change regarding COP-15 to Sandra Marchak, the Permanent Secretary at the Office of the Prime Minister. In addition to being the head of the GOTT civil service, Marchak is a close confidant of the PM and is frequently appointed POC on key issues followed by the PM. Marchak said she appreciated the visit and acknowledged the President's targets for emissions reduction, which she wrote down. The Charge highlighted several particular points he felt the GOTT would find most interesting, such as the high-level nature of the USG delegation, US support for the Danish "prompt start" proposal, and an acknowledgment that smaller developing countries should focus on low-carbon growth plans rather than emissions reductions.

¶2. (SBU) Marchak said the Prime Minister would be happy to review the information we passed on USG climate change positions. She was very interested in the timing of President Obama's visit to Copenhagen, and confirmed that PM Manning would attend the leaders' meetings December 16-18. We have learned separately that Manning will be joined by Emily Dick-Forde, Minister of Planning Housing and Environment, and Kishan Kumar Singh, her Head of Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

¶3. (SBU) Marchak also told the Charge that the GOTT was very happy with the climate change declaration produced at the CHOGM (ref A) and noted that the leaders themselves drafted the declaration after presentations from French President Sarkozy and Danish PM Rasmussen and general discussion that followed in an executive session.
KUSNITZ